



Weekly Briefing

Greece Social briefing:


Think Tanks in Greece

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Several think tanks are operating in Greece. They deal with politics, economic issues and foreign affairs. While some are affiliated with political parties or ministries and adjust their research accordingly, others present themselves as more independent while they are also struggling to safeguard their economic resources, especially in times of austerity. The economic crisis has caused serious economic problems to all think tanks but has also created an opportunity for them to foster new cooperation networks and make their voice heard both domestically and internationally.

The development of think tanks in Greece is associated with the environment in which they operate and the overall patterns of expansion of the civil society sector. Since 1974, the year that democracy was re-established after the seven-year dictatorship, stability has marked the country's politics and social life. The right to association of Greek citizens is protected by the Greek Constitution. It is also guaranteed through the provision of the European Convention of Human Rights, which protects the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association with others. Norms and laws adopted under the EU and the Council of Europe conventions have been equally significant in that regard

The afore-mentioned constitutional and fundamental rights rules form the basis for the unencumbered formation of civil society organizations to which think tanks in all their legal forms belong. According to the Greek civil code think tanks in Greece tend to function either as foundations, non-profit organizations or in some cases as associations. This applies both to think tanks that appear to be organizationally independent as well as to those organizations that operate under the umbrella of a larger institution, such as a state agency or a university. The dominant political culture in the country has meant that until 2009 – when financial crisis broke out – the ‘third sector’ in Greece was dominated by political parties or public bodies which could practically act as guarantors of financing.

The situation started to change when Greece entered the bailout period in 2010. Think tanks could not any longer count on the financial support of the state, which was reduced – if not abolished – as a result of austerity policies and needed to look for other resources in the private sector, the European Commission and international foundations. This seriously affected their operation leading even to the closure of some organizations such as the Greek Center for European Studies (EKEM). An important source of financing for think tanks before the outbreak of the crisis was the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. When SYRIZA came to power in 2015, it accused – under the initiative former Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias previous governments for an alleged corruption linkage with non-governmental organizations and think tanks. This remains currently an issue of

political confrontation. Despite this political confrontation and the serious impact of the economic crisis, several think tanks are still operating in Greece.

Centre for Analysis and Planning (CAP)

The Centre for Analysis and Planning (CAP) dates back to 1998. According to the amendment of Article 13 of the Statute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [Law 3566/2007 (Official Gazette A' 117)] by Law 4451/13-2-2017 (Official Gazette A' 16) and the concomitant Ministerial Decree dated 26-6-2017, the CAP is an autonomous unit directly answerable to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Its main mission is foreign policy and international relations analysis, scientific research and support of the Foreign Ministry, elaboration of studies and formulation of policy proposals on topics of special Greek interest or of broader international challenges, within the framework of Greek foreign policy strategic priorities and relevant instructions of the Foreign Minister. The CAP issues the periodic (bimonthly) 'Review' and the electronic series entitled 'Texts of Analysis & Policy'. It additionally coordinates working groups on several issues and generally seeks osmosis among ministerial and academic/research reflection, by working closely with directorates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens and diplomatic authorities abroad, universities and research centers both in Greece and abroad, counterpart agencies international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Constantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy (CKID)

The Constantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy (CKID) is the official think-tank of the Greek conservative New Democracy party and is named after the party's founder. It is a member of the Wilfried Martens Centre, the official foundation tank of the European People's Party. CDIK was established in January 1998 and constitutes a non-profit organization. It aims at examining and analyzing social, political and economic issues. The objective of the Institute is to contribute to the advancement of democracy, civil liberties and private enterprise, while remaining committed to development and social cohesion. Its work includes research programs, publications, events, education and training on a wide range of subjects: state and society, economy and development, education, science and culture, international politics and security, politics and ideology.

Andreas G. Papandreou Foundation (APF)

The Andreas Papandreou Foundation (APF) was established in Athens in 1996 in memory of Andreas G. Papandreou, the founder of Panhellenic Socialist

Movement. It is a benevolent, non-profit institution, the initiatives of which are based on his ideas, political thought and vision. The primary goal of APF, apart from studying, researching and promoting the life and work of Andreas G. Papandreou, is mainly the contribution, in a meaningful way, to the advancement of intellectual and political life in Greece. Within this framework, APF is using a variety of citizen-oriented approaches with regard to Greece's economic, social and cultural dimensions both nationally and internationally. The guiding principles dictating the philosophy of the Foundation are the importance paid to individual freedom, social accountability, and technological advancement for the benefit of the citizen.

Nicos Poulantzas Institute (NPI)

The Nicos Poulantzas Institute (NPI) was founded in 1997 on the initiative of the political party Synaspismos, today SYRIZA. NPI is named after the Greek political sociologist Nicos Poulantzas. This choice signals the Institute's embrace of the traditions of radical left thought. With his theoretical work and his committed participation in the left movement, Nicos Poulantzas became a prominent organic intellectual of the Left. His work, animated by the principles of democratic socialism and the ideas of Marxism, is integrally linked to the Left's endeavor to overcome dogmatic rigidity, to fight against all forms of authoritarian rule and to contribute to fully-fledged social liberation. Nicos Poulantzas Institute is a founding member of the European Network for Alternative Thinking and Political Dialogue TRANSFORM!. This TRANSFORM! Network is cooperating with the European Left Party, as well as with the European Parliamentary Group: European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL).

The Circle of Ideas of the National Reconstruction (EKYKLOS)

The Circle of Ideas for National Reconstruction (EKYKLOS) is a think-to-do policy initiative founded in December 2015, by Professor Evangelos Venizelos, former Deputy Prime Minister of Greece, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Finance of Greece of PASOK, and a number of high profile professionals and leading figures of Greek political and socio-economic life. EKYKLOS is designed as a forum for public conversation and innovative thinking in objective to define a new, strong and sustainable position of Greece within Europe and globally. It connects politics and policy thinking to progressively develop and decision-making framework that Greece needs to meet the challenges of tomorrow, of 'Greece After'. In particular, EKYKLOS has developed a website (www.ekyklos.gr) to stimulate the expression of well-argued views and documented opinions. It also hosts papers, runs an event program and brings together top politicians and policymakers, academics and leading writers, people from business and other expert thinkers, from Greece and abroad.

DIKTIO Network for Reforms in Greece

DIKTIO Network for Reform in Greece and Europe is an Athens-based independent, nonpartisan, non-profit research and policy institute that aims at developing strong, pragmatic, and innovative policy and advocacy on all aspects of European integration, Greek domestic politics and various currents impacting international structures. DIKTIO engages policymakers, business and political leaders and the public with innovative, fact-based research, ideas, and proactive analysis to elevate the domestic & European debate on necessary cross-sectoral reforms. Its founder/president Ms. Anna Diamantopoulou is a former EU Commissioner and former Minister of Education in Greece. Its members include active citizens from all walks of life and background (academics, entrepreneurs, educators, civil servants), firm believers in Greece's European future. DIKTIO's activities focus on the need for necessary reforms for achieving the European ideal to the benefit of all. They include a variety of public events for issues on the public agenda as well as the development of policy proposals for reforms at Greek and European levels.

Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE)

Established in 1959 by the then Prime Minister Constantinos Karamanlis the Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE) is the oldest economic research institute in Greece and operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Economy and Development. The primary aims of KEPE since its establishment have been the scientific study of the problems of the Greek economy, the encouragement of economic research and the cooperation with other scientific institutions. In 1964, the year KEPE acquired its present name, its objectives widened to include the preparation of short, medium and long-term development plans, the analysis of Greece's short and medium term economic developments, the formulation of economic policy proposals and the education of young economists. Today KEPE dedicates a significant part of its resources to the analysis of the various aspects of the financial crisis, its causes and effects in the divergent sectors of the economy and the different social groups. Its activities are focused on applied research concerning the Greek economy, on the study of economic conjuncture and on the provision of advisory services to the government on issues of economic analysis and policy.

Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research (IOBE)

The Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research (IOBE) is a private, non-profit, public-benefit research organization. It was established in 1975 with the dual purpose of promoting research on current problems and prospects of the Greek economy and its sectors and of generating reliable information, analysis and proposals for action that are non-produced elsewhere and can thus be of high

value to policy makers in the context of economic policy making. In that sense, IOBE holds a unique position in Greek society. It is the only politically independent, non-partisan body dealing with major issues of the economy and it aspires to being pro-active, that is, it seeks to identify, at an early stage, economic issues that can become crucial in the future and to propose timely solutions for these. In carrying out its research work, the Foundation maintains a position of academic freedom and neutrality. The judgements expressed and the proposals contained in IOBE's publications are solely the responsibility of the researcher/writer and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of IOBE's members, governing bodies of financial supporters.

Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)

The Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) is a private, independent, nonprofit-making think tank, established in Athens, Greece, in 1988. Its mission is to conduct policy-oriented research and provide policy makers, academics and the public at large with authoritative information and substantiated policy recommendations, so as to contribute to the development of evidence-based responses to major European and foreign policy challenges. ELIAMEP's expertise spans over a wide range of geographic and functional areas: EU institutions and policies; migration management, security, international relations and conflict resolution (with a special focus on the Balkans, the Black Sea, the former Soviet space, the Mediterranean/Middle East and Asia); transatlantic relations; democracy, human rights and civic participation; good governance and the rule of law; religion and culture; the role of the media in the era of fake news; energy and climate change.

Institute of International Economic Relations (IDOS)

The Institute of International Economic Relations (IDOS) was established in 1993 by the Greek Association of S.A. & Ltd companies. The Institute's main objectives are to conduct research on the most significant contemporary issues in international economy paying special attention to the international economic relations of Greece, to provoke and enrich the public debate in business, academic and political circles and to put its expertise and consulting capability at the service of private and national institutions that determine the foreign economic affairs of Greece. The means by which the objectives of the Institute are pursued are scientific studies and research projects undertaken directly by the Institute, the publication of research findings, the organization of international and national conferences, seminars, symposiums, lectures and public debates and the co-

operation with governmental agencies as well as with public and private bodies for the exchange of information and the study of specific subjects.

Institute of International Relations (IDIS)

The Institute of International Relations (IDIS) was founded in 1989 on the initiative of Professor Dimitris Konstas. It is a research institute that organizationally belongs to Panteion University and is affiliated with the Department of International and European Studies. It maintains administrative and financial autonomy though. IDIS analyzes the Greek foreign policy issues and prepares proposals for its exercise. It, inter alia, focuses on international developments that do affect Greece's interests, European integration and international law. IDIS additionally fosters collaboration with international institutes, published reports and organizes various events.

Navarino Network (NN)

Navarino Network (NN) is a home-grown initiative, aware of both local sensitivities around the city of Thessaloniki and the demands presented by the wider world that can contribute to the renewal of the broader policy debate in regards to the city and its region. Taking advantage of and putting to good use the enthusiasm of its energetic student youth, it envisions a hospitable network for the development of new thinking in regards to current and future policy challenges. The NN is an initiative of the Northern Greece Entrepreneurs Cultural Society. It is precisely this forward-looking, regionally focused, innovating, and dynamic spirit that the NN tries to encapsulate. It is comprised of friends, members, advisors, staffers, partners and a director (Dimitris Keridis, Professor of International Politics at Panteion University), relies upon the work of volunteers, the generosity of sponsors and the support of institutional grants and benefits from the expertise of an international network that includes innovative thinkers and opinion-makers. An international advisory committee assists in the strategic planning.

International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)

The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organization. It has since fulfilled a dual function: a) it is an independent research and training institution focusing on the wider Black Sea region and b) it is a related body of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and serves as its acknowledged think-tank. Through its activities, the ICBSS promotes multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states, the European Union and other international organizations. The Centre elaborates and publishes research papers and studies, organizes a variety of scientific events, and manages research projects that seek to foster a

comprehensive and cohesive approach towards important issues of the Black Sea region, with explicit measurable results and gains at both the academic and political level.

Conclusion

There are several think tanks which are operating in Greece. The list presented above is non exhaustive but includes the most important centers in the country. Although their activity and specialization vary, they are generally encountered with similar economic problems. What is perhaps particularly worrying is that most of the Greek think tanks are unable to offer job positions to young Greek scholars who are looking for other opportunities abroad. Alternatively, it is positive that they remain active despite difficult economic times and do take part in shaping the public discussion. The crisis – in spite of its dramatic consequences – has strengthened the publicity of some Greek think tanks that have become a source of information and analysis at the national and international level. If Greece manages to stabilize its economics, more funding opportunities will also emerge for them in order to increase the quantity and quality of their research and attract personnel from foreign countries.